(b) if not, the amount of average annual income and expenditure during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is necessary that the income should be more than the expenditure in order to strengthen autonomy of the institution; and

(d) if so, what is future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While in the ideal situation it will be desirable if Prasar Bharati can earn more revenue than it spends on itself every year but considering that expenditure on Prasar Bharati was Rs. 1634.96 crores in 1999-2000 while its income (provisional) was Rs. 681 crores, increasing income to a level higher than annual expenditure is clearly not feasible in the near future. A prominent reason why income cannot be increased beyond a certain level is that Prasar Bharati is a public broadcaster and, therefore, it devotes consider able time in its telecast to social issues and news. Most of such programmes do not attract advertisements or sponsorship. However, Prasar Bharati tries to maximize its income by seeking sponsorship for more programmes and by more efficient utilization of advertising time available to it.

Interview of General Musharraf by DD

2514. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was an excellent gesture to have General Pervez Musharraf to record an interview for Doordarshan, but is it being reciprocated by neighbour suitably;

(b) whether there is any plan to continue with similar interviews of dignitaries in Pakistan to create wholesome atmosphere in the subcontinent; and

(c) what other similar measures are contemplated to create bridges of understanding between the people of the two estranged neighbours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (c) The interview of Gen. Musharraf was not telecast with the objective of any specific reciprocity. Govt. wish to build a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. During his visit to Lahore on February 20-21, 1999, Prime Minister conveyed to the Government and to the people of Pakistan, India's deep desire for peace and friendship with them to develop a comprehensive structure of cooperation for the benefit of the two people. However, Pakistan has continued with its aggressive approach and hostile policies towards India. Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India has also continued unabated.

(b) No such proposal is there.

Expansion of AIR and Doordarshan Network

†2515. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the up to date elaborate details of the scheme formulated for the expansion of Network of Doordarshan and AIR after assuming charge by him;

(b) whether the centre set up in the states are working smoothly;

(c) whether the network of Broadcasting media is adequate keeping in view the population of the States; and

(d) whether government have formulated comprehensive action-plan to bring all the districts in the country under Broadcasting network by the end of the century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The details of schemes approved for implementation during the period 14-10-99—31.3.2000 in AIR and Doordarshan are given in statement. (*see* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.